



# USAID | UKRAINE

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## HEALTH



Photo by Oleksandr Golubov

A man warms his baby through skin-to-skin contact while his wife recovers from a Caesarean section.

### THE CHALLENGE

Almost 30% of Ukraine's population still lives below the poverty line. Social and economic realities and an overburdened, centralized health care system also contribute to rising rates of infectious diseases, especially HIV and tuberculosis (TB), as well as high abortion rates, alcoholism and substance abuse. The HIV/AIDS infection rate stands at 1.4%. Reported cases rose by 25% from 2003 to 2004. The mother-to-child HIV/AIDS transmission rate is at about 10%. Every fifth child born to an HIV+ mother is left at the maternity hospital. National infant and maternal mortality rates (IMR and MMR) appear to be flat-lined or worsening.

### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Increase HIV/AIDS awareness and lower level of HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination
- Decrease HIV/AIDS infection rates and decrease rate of mother-to-child transmission
- Prevent abandonment of infected newborns
- Promote DOTS as a method to raise TB awareness and decrease TB infection rates
- Promote incorporation of mother and infant health best practices across the country
- Reduce rates of abortion and sexually transmitted diseases through increased use of contraception

### OVERVIEW

The new Government of Ukraine has indicated an increased commitment to addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and adopting evidence-based maternal and infant health care practices - both USG health priorities.

USAID as part of its commitment to investing in people is assisting Ukraine to better the overall health of Ukrainians. In its partnership with Ukraine, USAID strives to set health standards and create systems that will give Ukrainians better information and empower them to make their needs known. The goal is to generate demand for modern services and develop the quality and professionalism of medical workers. Concurrently, USAID supports development of a civil society that interacts with government promoting transparent health management and easy access to and provision of services.

### OUR PROGRAMS

#### HIV/AIDS

In 2003, in response to the rapidly escalating HIV epidemic, USAID adopted a five-year assistance strategy to reduce transmission and impact of HIV by: 1) the adoption, promotion and facilitation of protective behaviors; 2) strengthening partners to plan, manage and evaluate HIV/AIDS programs; and 3) mitigation of stigma and discrimination toward those affected; 4) preventing Mother-to-Child HIV transmission; and 5) preventing abandonment of HIV-affected children. To advance our objectives, we have initiated collaborations between local governmental departments (e.g. health and education) and NGOs in all eight high priority regions.

#### Prevention of Abandonment of Children Born With HIV/AIDS

This program aims to build systems, capacity, and commitment to keep children born to HIV-positive mothers within the biological family environment.

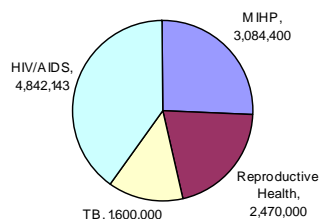
#### Tuberculosis Prevention and Control

Programs aim to 1) implement the internationally recommended Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course Strategy (DOTS) in oblasts with high TB burden and/or high TB risk (e.g. high HIV infection rates); incorporate the need to develop expertise in TB/HIV co-infection and MDR-TB; and support both national policy and regional implementation approaches to enhance the sustainability of DOTS.

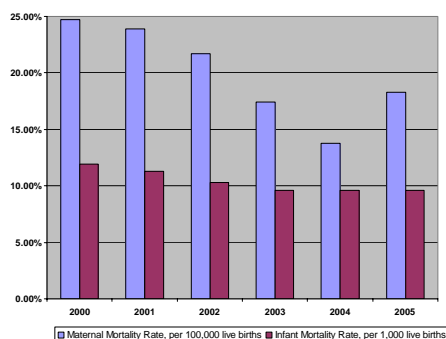
#### Maternal and Infant Health

USAID support aims to introduce and promote appropriate evidence-based interventions through the full cycle of care for mothers and infants, along with a component to improve the provision of counseling, delivery and child care services to HIV-positive pregnant and postpartum women and their children in three oblasts. In addition, support is provided to the Ministry of Health to develop national guidelines and clinical protocols services as well as to revise educational curriculum for medical universities and colleges.

## Health Programs, FY 2006



## Mother and Infant Mortality Rates



### Implementing Partners

**HIV/AIDS:** HIV/AIDS Alliance, Doctors of the World, American International Health Alliance (AIHA), The Futures Group International, the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) and International Relief and Development, Inc. (IRD).

**Prevention and Control:** World Health Organization (WHO), The Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) and The Futures Group International.

**Mother and Infant Health:** John Snow Inc.

**Reproductive Health/Family Planning:** John Snow Inc

## Reproductive Health/Family Planning

This initiative seeks to reduce high rates of abortion and sexually transmitted diseases through increased use of modern contraception methods. The program supports implementation of the National Reproductive Health Program.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### HIV/AIDS

- Establishment of the National Coordination Council on HIV/AIDS, which serves as one national coordination body. This demonstrated Ukraine's commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS and willingness to involve civil society into decision making processes.
- 55 HIV voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) centers were supported through USAID projects with government support, where 15,000 people have been counseled and tested under a new national protocol that meets international standards.
- Grants to HIV-service NGOs have doubled coverage of HIV prevention and information services to the most at risk populations from 12 to 25 percent in the regions with the highest HIV incidence rates.
- Support to more than 80 health facilities and training of more than 400 doctors and midwives in prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT) provided 45,000 pregnant women with an access to quality HIV counseling and testing, as well as to PMTCT services when needed.
- National Protocol on antiretroviral treatment for HIV pregnant women and women in labor has been developed and adopted by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine.

### Tuberculosis

- Pilot DOTS program introduced in Donetsk oblast to lay foundation for nationwide acceptance and implementation.
- Public awareness campaigns have enhanced responsible anti-TB behavior within the Donetsk population and resulted in a two-fold increase of TB-infected persons reporting to medical facilities and a case detection rate of 50%.
- By 2005, treatment success rates were reported at 70% in Donetsk. (up from about 50 %, but short of the global target of 85%, due to MDR-TB and HIV/TB co-infection).
- More than 4,300 doctors have been trained in internationally recognized best practices for TB prevention and control.

### Maternal and Infant Health Care

#### Pilot Sites:

- Hypothermia in newborns has almost been eliminated.
- Infant mortality has decreased by approximately 30%.
- Normal deliveries have increased from 26% to 65%.
- Cesarean sections decreased from 42% to 26%.
- 64% of deliveries are attended by a partner or other family members, and as a result, the use of pain medication is minimal.

#### Country-wide:

- Nearly 900 healthcare staff have been trained on effective antenatal and pediatric care and infection control.
- 40 protocols on reproductive and maternal and infant health have been developed by the Ministry of Health and are being published for further dissemination.

For more information, please contact USAID/Ukraine Development Outreach & Communications, tel. (380 44) 537 4600 or visit <http://ukraine.usaid.gov>